

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 29-42 claims “a computer program ...” However, the claims do not define a program to be a functional descriptive material encoded on a memory/disk/computer-readable medium, and is thus non-statutory for that reason (i.e., “When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized”). Moreover, a “program” is neither a process (“action”), nor machine, nor manufacture, nor composition of matter (i.e., tangible “thing”) and therefore non-statutory.

Such claimed “program” (software) does not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer, which permit the computer program’s functionality to be realized. As such, “program”/software, not claimed as embodied/encoded in computer-readable medium and is not statutory because the “program”/software is not capable of causing functional change in the computer. Because the full scope of the claim as properly read in light of the disclosure encompasses non-statutory subject matter, the claim as a whole is non-statutory and appears to be one type of claim that is

considered nonstatutory, under the present USPTO Interim Guidelines, 1300 Official Gazette Patent and Trademark Office 142 (Nov. 22, 2005).

The Examiner suggests amending the claim to include the disclosed tangible computer readable media, while at the same time excluding the intangible media such as signals, carrier waves, etc...

Any amendment to the claim should be commensurate with its corresponding disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negative by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikegami (6745334) in view of Kizaki (2002/0030853).

Ikegami discloses an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** ; and

an assigning part **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as shown in fig. 2)** assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application **(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected).**

Ikegami is not clear about how the various functional keys are assigned to the applications. Thus it is done automatically through the CPU as explained clearly earlier.

Kizaki discloses clearly in Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213 copy and printer server application buttons or keys that is use to assign the copying and printing functions to these applications. **(Section 0055 and 0056, Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213, thus the copy server key 39 tell the CPU that these documents are being copied and therefore needs to stored in their respective storages)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Ikegami's control panel to include Kizaki's copying and printing server application keys so that users can

use those keys to assign job being process to those functions as explained in Section 0057.

Claim 2, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses an image forming apparatus wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 3, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 4, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein assignment by the assigning part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 5, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein when assignment of the selected application is performed the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the

operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 6, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 7, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, when assignment of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).**

Claim 8, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, when the function key is pushed for the selected application, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number.

(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)

Claim 9, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the assigning part including:
a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key **(Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172) and**

a part storing an application ID of the selected application **(Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 10, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 11, Ikegami in view Kizaki discloses wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus**

there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)

Claim 12, Ikegami in view Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 13, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 14, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 15, Ikegami discloses a method used for assigning an application to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and assigning **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as shown in fig. 2)** a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application **(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)**

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected).**

Ikegami is not clear about how the various functional keys are assigned to the applications. Thus it is done automatically through the CPU as explained clearly earlier.

Kizaki discloses clearly in Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213 copy and printer server application buttons or keys that is use to assign the copying and printing functions to these applications. **(Section 0055 and 0056, Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213, thus the copy server key 39 tell the CPU that these documents are being copied and therefore needs to stored in their respective storages)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Ikegami's control panel to include Kizaki's copying and printing server application keys so that users can use those keys to assign job being process to those functions as explained in Section 0057.

Claim 16, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 17, Ikegami in view of Kizaki wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 18, Ikegami in view of Kizaki wherein the step of assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to

the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application) .**

Claim 19, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein when assignment of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen **(Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 20, Ikegami in view of Kizaki wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 21, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, when assignment of the selected application is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7**

Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).

Claim 22, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein when the function key is pushed for the selected application; the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

Claim 23, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, in the step of assigning, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application ID of the selected application **(Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 24, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 25, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 26, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 27, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned

within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 28, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 29, Ikegami discloses a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an application to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and assigning **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as**

shown in fig. 2) program code means for assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application **(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)** wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected).**

Ikegami is not clear about how the various functional keys are assigned to the applications. Thus it is done automatically through the CPU as explained clearly earlier.

Kizaki discloses clearly in Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213 copy and printer server application buttons or keys that is use to assign the copying and printing functions to these applications. **(Section 0055 and 0056, Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213, thus the copy server key 39 tell the CPU that these documents are being copied and therefore needs to stored in their respective storages).** Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Ikegami's control panel to include Kizaki's copying and printing server application keys so that users can use those keys to assign job being process to those functions as explained in Section 0057.

Claim 30, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 31, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 32, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein assignment by the assigning program code means is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application).**

Claim 33, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a guidance screen **(Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming

apparatus. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 34, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus **(Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus)** and an image for guiding a user to the function key. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus)**

Claim 35, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a screen indicating the number of applications assigned to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated).**

Claim 36, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the

selected application if the number of applications assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number. **(Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise)**

Claim 37, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the assigning program code means including program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; **(Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

and program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application **(Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 38, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the assigning program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 39, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the computer program further comprising displaying program code means for, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, displaying a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)**

Claim 40, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses, wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications. **(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)**

Claim 41, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses, the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is**

possible)

Claim 42, Ikegami in view of Kizaki disclose the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171)**

Claim 43, Ikegami discloses a computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an application to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of applications, **(Fig. 1 shows an image forming apparatus that includes scanning, printing and faxing)** the computer program comprising:

displaying program code means for displaying a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; **(Col. 7, Lines 45-50, Fig. 6 172 shows clearly that different applications like copying, faxing, printing can be selected by pressing the appropriate key or button)** and assigning program code means **(CPU 171 since the CPU coordinates the inputs from the sensors as shown in fig. 2)** for assigning a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed for the selected application

(Col. 8 Lines 18-25, fig. 6, thus when a key is pressed or depressed the corresponding application is recognized or assigned as the operating mode of the image forming apparatus)

wherein the function key **(Fig. 6 El. 601, 604, 607 and 610, thus these keys are use to select the appropriate application)** is a key used for a user to select and execute an application from a plurality of applications. **(Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 El. 172, thus when a user presses a copying key then among printing and faxing application copying is selected).**

Ikegami is not clear about how the various functional keys are assigned to the applications. Thus it is done automatically through the CPU as explained clearly earlier.

Kizaki discloses clearly in Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213 copy and printer server application buttons or keys that is use to assign the copying and printing functions to these applications. **(Section 0055 and 0056, Fig. 6 El. 212 and 213, thus the copy server key 39 tell the CPU that these documents are being copied and therefore needs to stored in their respective storages)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Ikegami's control panel to include Kizaki's copying and printing server application keys so that users can use those keys to assign job being process to those functions as explained in Section 0057.

Claim 44, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a hardware key. **(Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 47-60, Fig. 6 show a control panel which is a hardware key)**

Claim 45, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 45-51, thus the software are embedded in the CPU 171 which controls or process the control panel)**

Claim 46, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein assignment by the assigning program code means is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application to the function key. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 25-65, thus the application key mode puts the apparatus into the mode for assigning the selected application).**

Claim 47, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code means displays a guidance screen **(Fig. 6 El. 617, Guidance key)** indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus. **(Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus is copy application is selected it shows on the screen that copies is being made)**

Claim 48, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus (**Col. 7 Lines 45-55, thus the Operation or control panel helps in guiding the user through using the image forming apparatus**) and an image for guiding a user to the function key. . (**Col. 8 Lines 1-10, thus the guidance key may be use to help the user in operating the apparatus**)

Claim 49, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating the number of application assigned to the function key. (**Ikegami: Col. 7 Lines 45-60, Fig. 6 thus fig. 6 shows clearly that copying application is pressed and therefore it shows vividly on the panel or LCD that it is the application being operated**).

Claim 50, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the assigning program code displays a screen indicating that the function cannot be assigned to the selected application number of applications assigned to the function already reaches a limit number. (**Ikegami: Col. 9 Lines 44-61, Fig. 620, thus it clearly shows that copying is possible and therefore it can be done, if it is impossible it will tell otherwise**)

Claim 51, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the assigning program code means including: program code means for obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; **(Col. 4 Lines 33-45, thus when a copy button is pressed, CPU 171 communicates with 172)** and

and program code means for storing an application ID of the selected application **(Memory storing the application address in Fig. 2 El. 174 and 175)** and the obtained function key ID in which the application ID is associated with the function key ID. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, Fig. 2 thus there is a linkage between the key and the software that supports the function key which operates through the Processor as a communication means)**

Claim 52, Ikegami in view of Kizaki wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the assigning program code means stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of applications assigned to the function key. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Claim 53, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the computer program further comprising displaying program code means for, when a function key to which a plurality of applications are assigned is pushed, displaying a screen including the names of the plurality of applications for a user to select one application from the plurality of applications. . **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and**

scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible)

Claim 54, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses wherein the displaying program code means displays application status for each of the plurality of applications.

(Ikegami: Fig. 6 shows that copying is being done)

Claim 55, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 8 Lines 5-30, thus there is a printing, copying and scanning application and when a copy application is pressed and it shows clearly as shown in Fig. 6 that copying is possible).**

Claim 56, Ikegami in view of Kizaki discloses the computer program further comprising program code means for selecting one application from a plurality of applications in which the one application corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of applications are assigned within a time period. **(Ikegami: Col. 4 Lines 40-51, thus the extension key ID is stored in CPU 171).**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, HAI Tran can be reached on 571-272-7305. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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AMS
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